THE FARMERS' CABINET,

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY.

Vol. I. **Philadelphia, November 1, 1836.** No. 8.

Published by
MOORE & WATERHOUSE,
No. 67 South Second St. Phila.

J. Van Court, Printer, 48 Market street.

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THE FARMERS' CABINET.

[We bespeak for the following communication the careful and candid consideration of our readers, as the subject is one of great moment. The author, Mr. RONALDSON, is well known as one of our most respectable and enterprising citizens. He is the same gentleman who succeeded in directing the attention of our citizens to the culture of the Beet Root for the fabrication of sugar; (see Cabinet No. 4. vol. 1,) and his object in this enterprise, like that just referred to, is to benefit the community without any reference to pecuniary gain.]

To the Farmers of the U. States.

That care and skill have improved fruit trees, vegetables, and our domestic animals, are facts known to all classes of husbandmen; and the advantage of rearing cattle from the best breeds is now well understood all over America. The advantages that accompany procuring the best grain for seed is as yet but partially understood and very little attended to.

Repeatedly sowing some kinds of grain on the same land, is in many cases followed by an evident decline in the quality, still this it must be observed is not a uniform consequence; there are many and well authenticated instances where the change to a new soil and climate is accompanied with a deterioration, and in others as great an improvement has taken place.

As it is known that grains, &c. in some climates and soils degenerate to a minimum, sometimes in quality, in others in quantity, and frequently in both; a practice calculated to remedy these disadvantages is of great importance to the agriculture of the United States. On the present occasion it is our object to point out what may be done here, by showing what is done in other countries, and under circumstances far less favourable to the husbandman, or to the operations of husbandry, than in America. In Scotland, for example, the climate is cold, wet and stormy; yet by care and industry crops are produced, remarkable both for quantity and quality There the greatest attention is paid to the changing of seed. The low countries procure their seed potatoes from the high districts at great expense of money and labor. The whole oat crop of some districts is bought for, and sowed for seed; this is the case with a portion of country called Blainsley, that lays south of Soutria Hills. In no country has the culture of clover been more beneficial, or attended with better success than in Scotland, yet the climate is so unfavorable to the ripening of clover seed, that nearly the whole has to be procured from England or Holland. The farmers of that country frequently change the wheat seed, and procure the best that is to be had, paying very little respect to price, and the greatest attention to quality.

It would appear that the principle by which the Scotch farmers are guided to the results they obtain, is to select their seed from those districts where it is grown in the greatest perfection, from the climate and soil being best adapted to the plant. Thus they choose seed oats and potatoes of their own growing,

these being plants best adapted to mountainous, cool and moist regions; and clover and wheat seed from England and Holland, which are comparatively low, warm and dry, and better adapted to their production.

It is well known that in America, our Oats are not good, they have little kernal or meal; and the quality of our Barley is not what it ought to be.

It is to the following circumstance the present address owes its existence.

In the year 1833, a well informed practical farmer visited Pennsylvania with the object of seeing as much of our practice of farming, soil and climate, as a short stay here would permit. On his return to Scotland, he procured and sent to his friends in Philadelphia some Angus Oats, Hopeton Oats, Barley, Wheat and Rye-grass; the cask containing the seed miscarried and did not arrive here until the Fall of 1835.

Some of each kind of these seeds have been sown here; the wheat came up very thin; it is presumed the seed suffered from the long voyage. On the 18th April, 1836, the Oats and Barely were sown on rather poor but fresh loam. It is true, the season has been cool, damp and favorable to these grains, still their success has surpassed any thing that could have been calculated on. The Barley and both kinds of Oats are of superior growth in strength of stem, as well as thinkness on the ground; they would lose nothing in a comparison with the crops of Oats or Barley of any country, and are likely to suffer loss from excessive growth, causing them to lodge. One kind of the Oats commenced shooting into ear about the first of July, and the other about the tenth; the marks which were placed to distinguish the one from the other have got displaced, and this accident prevents knowing whether it is the Angus or Hopeton Oats that first puts out the ear.

Now let us inquire into the economy of farmers adopting the practice of annually supplying themselves with new seed grain—and found our calculations on a farm where about twenty bushels of Oats are sown each year; the farmer of such a piece of land could supply himself with an annual change of his Oat seed in the following manner. It is presumed that each bushel of the imported Oats he sows, will produce ten bushels; then by annually buying two bushels, their produce would yield the twenty bushels required for sowing on his farm. Suppose the price of the imported Oats to be $1,50 cents a bushel, the two would cost $3—and the price of country oats was 50 cents, the two would cost $1—The expense of changing the seed would be per annum $2. The estimate is not given as a matter of accuracy, but as a formula by which every one can make his own calculations.

In procuring a change in seed, there are other points necessary to be attended to besides the quality of the grain, and one of these is to guard against bringing with it the weeds incident to the country or fields where it has grown: for want of attention to this, there are farmers who have introduced into their fields, along with the clover they sowed, the narrow leafed plantain, which arrogates to itself a place which would otherwise be occupied by clover, to the detriment of his hay both in quality and quantity, and that more serious curse, Bensalem clover or white daisy; all this is the result of their not taking sufficient care in the selection of their clover seed.

In the British Islands, their Oat and Barley fields at some seasons, are entirely yellow; nothing is to be seen save the bloom of the wild mustard, in some districts called Sheldricks; and this is not the only one of this class of yellow flowering spring weed,—in Wheat they have what is here called Cockle, the seed of which is detrimental to superfine flour; all these should be guarded against by the European agent; and to prevent mischief, the seed after it arrives here should be re-sifted in a sieve that will separate the weeds from the pure grain, always collecting and burning the obnoxious seeds.

In proof of the sincerity, that the writer entertains a favorable opinion of the system, he will import for next season's sowing, one hundred bushels of selected Barley, one hundred of each variety of Oats, already spoken of, and, it being too late for receiving wheat for the ensuing sowing, measures will be taken for bringing to this country wheat for the following year.

Such persons as take an interest in renewing their seed grain, are invited to apply to the subscriber who will furnish them with any quantity, not less than a bushel. The cost will be governed by the price abroad, and the expense of bringing the articles here. The transaction will be attended with considerable trouble, and the limited extent of the operation will satify all who reflect, that there are other motives for undertaking the business than that of making money.

Letters, post paid, will be duly attended to, addressed to

JAMES RONALDSON,

No. 200 South Ninth street, Philad.

P. S. Editors of newspapers who take an interest in the advancement of our agriculture are requested to insert the preceding in their papers.

Washington's Agricultural Notes.

[CONCLUDED.]

Meadows.

Those already established and in train must continue, and the next to be added to them is the arms of the creek, which runs up to the spring-house, and forks, both prongs of which must be grubbed up, and wrought upon at every convenient moment when the weather will permit, down to the line of the ditch, which encloses the lots for clover, &c.

And as the fields come into cultivation; or as labor can be spared from other work, and circumstances will permit, the heads of all the inlets, in them must be reclaimed, and laid to grass, weather they be large or small, forasmuch as nothing will run, or can trespass upon or injure the grass; no fencing being required.

Mud for Compost.

The season is now too far advanced, and too cold to be engaged in a work, that will expose the hands to wet; but it is of such essential importance, that it should be set about seriously and with spirit next year, for the summer's sun and the winter's frost, to prepare it for the corn and other crops of 1801, that all the hands of the farm, not indispensably engaged in the crops, should, so soon as corn-planting be completed in the spring, be uninterruptedly employed in raising mud from the Pocosons, and from the bed of the creek, in the scow; and the carts, so soon as the manure for the corn and potatoes in 1800 is carried out, are to be incessantly drawing it to the compost heaps in the fields, which are to be manured by it. What number of hands can be set apart for this all-important work, remains to be considered and decided upon.

Penning Cattle and folding Sheep.

On the fields intended for wheat, from the first of May, when the former should be turned out to pasture, nntil the first of November, when they ought to be housed, must be practised invariably; and to do it with regularity and propriety, the pen for the former, and the fold for the latter, should be proportioned to the number of each kind of stock; and both these to as much ground as they will manure sufficiently in the space of a week for wheat, beyond which they are not to remain in a place, except on the poorest spots; and even *these* had better be aided by litter or something else, than to depart from an established rule, of removing the pens on a certain day in the week. For in this, as in every thing else, system is essential to carry on business well, and with ease.

Feeding.

The work-horses and mules are always to be in their stalls, and all littered and cleaned, when they are out of harness; and they are to be plenteously fed with cut straw, and as much chopped grain, meal, or bran, with a little salt mixed therewith, as will keep them *always* in good condition for work; seeing also, that they are watered as regularly as they are fed; this is their winter feed. For spring, summer and autumn, it is expected, that soiling them on green food, first with rye, then with lucern, and next with clover, with very little grain, will enable them to perform their work.

The oxen and other horned cattle, are to be housed from the first of November until the first of May; and to be fed as well as the means on the farm will admit. The first (oxen) must always be kept in good condition; housed in the stalls designed for them; and the cows (so many of them as can find places) on the opposite side. The rest, with the other cattle, must be in the newly erected sheds; and the whole carefully watered every day; the ice, in frozen weather, being broken, so as to admit them to clean water.

With respect to the sheep, they must receive the best protection that can be given them *this* winter; against the next, I hope they will be better provided for.

And with regard to the hogs, the plan must be, to raise a given number of *good ones*, instead of an indiscriminate number of *indifferent ones*, half of which die or are stolen before the period arrives for putting them up as porkers. To accomplish this a sufficient number of the best sows should be appropriated to the purpose; and so many pigs raised from them as will insure the quantity of pork, which the farm ought to furnish.

Whether it will be most advisable to restrain these hogs from running at large or not, can be decided with more precision after the result of those *now* in close pens is better known.

The exact quantity of corn used by those, which are now in pens, should be ascertained and regularly reported, in order to learn the result.

Stables and Farm Pens.

These ought to be kept well littered, and the stalls clean; as well for the comfort of the creatures that are contained in them, as for the purpose of manure; but as straw cannot be afforded for this purpose, *leaves* and such spoiled straw or weeds as will not do for food, must serve for the stables; and the first, that is, leaves and corn-stalks, is all that can be supplied to the pens. To do this

work effectually, let the corn-stalks be cut down by a few careful people with sharp hoes, so low as never to be in the way of scythes at harvest; and whenever the wheat will admit carts to run on it without injury, let them be brought off and stacked near the farm pens. In like manner let the people, with their blankets, go every evening, or as often as occasion may require, to the nearest wood, and fill them with leaves for the purposes above mentioned; bottoming the beds with corn-stalks, and covering them thick with leaves. A measure of this sort will be, if strictly attended to, and punctually performed, of great utility in every point of view. It will save food, make the cattle lie warm and comfortable, and produce much manure. The hogs also in pens must be well bedded in leaves.

Fencing.

As stock of no kind, according to this plan will be suffered to run on the arable fields or clover lots, (except sheep in the day on the rye fields, as has been mentioned before,) partition fences between the fields, until they can be raised of quicks, may be dispensed with. But it is of great importance, that all the exterior or outer fences should be substantially good; and those also which divide the common, or woodland pasture, from the fields and clover lots, are to be very respectable.

To accomplish this desirable object in as short a time as possible, and with the smallest expense of timber, the post and rail fence which runs from the negro quarters, or rather from the corner of the lot enclosing them, up to the division between fields Nos. 7 and 8, may be placed on the bank (which must be raised higher) running to the creek. In like manner, the fence from the gate, which opens into No. 2, quite down to the river, along the cedar hedge row, as also those rails which are between Nos. 1 and 2, and between Nos. 2 and 3, may all be taken away, and applied to the outer fences, and the fences to the lanes from the barn into the woodland pasture, and from the former (the barn) into No. 5; for the fences of all these lanes must be *good*, as the stock must have a free and uninterrupted passage along them, at all times, from the barn-yard to the woodland pasture.

All the fencing from the last mentioned place, (between me and Mr. Mason,) until it join's Mr. Lear's farm, and thence with the line between him and me, until it comes to the river, will require to be substantially good; at its termination on the river, dependence must be placed in a water fence; for if made of common rails, they would be carried off by boatmen for fire-wood. The fences separating fields Nos. 1 and 8 from the woodland pasture must also be made good, to prevent depredations on the fields by my own stock.

Crops, &c. for 1801.

No. 5, is to be in corn, and to be invariably in that article. It is to be planted (if drills are thought to be ineligible until the ground is much improved) in rows, 6 feet by 4, or 7 by 3½, the wide part open to the south. These hills are to be manured as highly as the means will admit; and the corn planted every year in the middle of the rows of the preceding year; by doing which, and mixing the manure and earth by the plough and other workings, the whole in time will be enriched.

The washed and gullied parts of this field should be levelled, and as much improved as possible, or left uncultivated. Although it is more broken than some of the other fields, it has its advantages. 1st, It has several inlets extending into it, with easy ascents therefrom. 2dly, It is convenient to the mud in the bed of the creek, whensoever (by means of the scow) resort is had thereto, and good landing places; and, 3dly, It is as near to the barn as any other, when a bridge and causeway shall be made over the spring branch. To these may be added, that it is more remote from squirrels than any other.

Nos. 6 and 7, or such part thereof as is not so much washed or gullied, as to render ploughing ineligible, are to be fallowed for wheat. One of which, if both cannot, is to have the stubble ploughed in and sown with rye, and the low and strong parts to have timothy or orchard-grass seeds, perhaps both, in different places, sprinkled over them, for the purpose of raising seed. On the rye pasture the sheep are to be fed in winter and spring, and treated in all respects as No. 3, in 1800.

In the Years 1802, 1803, *and so on.*

The corn ground remaining the same, two fields, in the following numbers, will be fallowed for wheat and treated in all respects as mentioned above; and if pumkins, cymlins, turneps, peas, and such like growth, are found beneficial to the land, or useful and profitable for stock, ground may readily be found for them.

These are the great outlines of a plan, and the operations of it, for the next year, and for years to come for the *river farm.* The necessary arrangements, and all the preparatory measures for carrying it into effect ought to be adopted without delay, and invariably pursued. Smaller matters may, and undoubtedly will, occur occasionally, but none it is persumed, that can militate against it materially.

To carry it into effect advantageously, it becomes the indispensable duty of him, who is employed to overlook and conduct the operations, to take a prospective and comprehensive view of the whole business, which is laid before him, that the several parts thereof may be so ordered and arranged, as that one sort of work may follow another sort in proper succession, and without loss of labor or of time: for nothing is a greater waste of the latter, and consequently of the former, (time producing labor, and labor money,) than shifting from one thing to another before it is finished, as if chance or the impulse of the moment, not judgment and foresight, directed the measure. It will be acknowledged, that weather and other circumstances may at times interrupt a regular course of proceedings, but if a plan is well digested beforehand, they cannot interfere long, with a man who is acquainted with the nature of the business, and the crops he is to attend to.

Every attentive and discerning person, who has the whole business of the year laid before him, and is acquainted with the nature of the work, can be at no loss to lay it out to advantage. He will know that there are many things which can be accomplished in winter as well as in summer; others, that spring, summer, and autumn only are fit for: in a word, to use the wise man's saying, that "there is a time and a season for all things," and that unless they are embraced, nothing will thrive or go on smoothly. There are many sorts of *in-doors* work, which can be executed in hail, rain, or snow, as well as in sunshine; and if they are set about in fair weather, (unless there be a necessity for it,) there will be nothing to do in foul weather; the people therefore must be idle. The man of prudence and foresight will always keep these things in view, and order his work accordingly, so as to suffer no waste of time or idleness. These same observations apply with equal force to frozen ground, and to ground too wet to work in, or which if worked will be injured thereby.

These observations might be spun to a greater length, but they are sufficient to produce reflection; and reflection, with industry and proper attention, will produce the end that is to be wished.

There is one thing, however, I cannot forbear to add, and in strong terms; it is, that whenever I order a thing to be done, it must be done; or a reason given at the time, or as soon as the impracticability is discovered, why it cannot be done, which will produce a countermand or change. But it is not for the person receiving the order to suspend, or dispense with its execution; and after it has been supposed to have gone into effect, to be told, that nothing has been done in it, that it *will* be done, or that it could not be done—either of these is unpleasant and disagreeable to me, having been all my life accustomed to more regularity and punctuality. Nothing but system and method are required to accomplish any reasonable requests.—*American Almanac.*

Farm Buildings and the Consumption of Fodder.

[The following article on Farm Buildings and the consumption of Fodder, may not be new to many of our readers; but it cannot, we think, fail to interest all who desire information on this subject. The farmers of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey will lose nothing by a comparison on this point with those of other states—but still they have by no means reached the point of perfection. On the proper management of farm-stock some are wofully deficient—this ought not to be—every man who aspires to the dignified title of a farmer, ought to understand his business thoroughly, having all reduced to a system, and that system regularly observed. In regard to the erection of farm buildings, special attention should be paid to the healthiness of their location—durability—economy—neatness—*comfort*. Rural architecture demands, and ought to receive, in this country especially, far more attention than has heretofore been devoted to it; and on this subject we invite the contribution of our friends. A difference of opinion we are aware prevails among many of our practical and intelligent farmers on the propriety of stabling neat cattle, some maintaining that it is calculated to make them too sensitive to cold, &c. On this point, as well as every other connected with the subject, we solicit the contribution of practical farmers.]

From the Cultivator.

Among all the deficiencies which exist in the perfect management of our farms, I am sensible that none are more prominent than that of proper buildings. Not that I would advocate expensive or large buildings, but those of ample size and convenience for all the *legitimate* uses of the farm, and of such shape and construction as shall conform to strictly economical calculations.

For instance, I would not build an expensive *stone* barn on my farm, when one of wood, equally good for all ordinary purposes, can be erected for a sum not greater than two or three years' interest on the cost of the stone one, because a well underpinned wooden building, where extraordinary warmth and tightness are not required, will endure at least fifty years, and need shingling no oftener

than a stone building. So of stables, sheds, outhouses, &c. But not so of dwellings.

The desire of warmth with which human beings are sheltered, forms a prominent part of the comfort and usefulness of life, and therefore all dwellings should be built of the best materials, and constructed in the warmest manner compatible with the ability of the owner. I have much doubt whether the occupant of an open, badly built house, does not pay three times the annual interest of its cost, in the extra fuel and labor consumed to keep its inmates comfortable; and among no class of people have I found so great an inattention to these very important matters, as among our moderate farmers; and when the annual losses by disease, exposure, extra labor of obtaining and preparing fuel, and of time in various ways, all arising from a cold and comfortless house, are taken into consideration, I am thoroughly satisfied that a great portion of the profits of a whole family's industry, are annually lost by the wretched houses they occupy.

Errors in Building.

The great fault committed by most farmers, in their buildings, is in the great size of their dwellings. Many who build, calculate to do it *within themselves*; or they get out their own timber, draw their own saw-logs to the mill, if there be one near them; quarry and haul their own stone, &c. &c., and so manage as to hire but a portion of their mechanic work, turning in their own labor and that of their sons or hired men, if they have them, to assist in its erection. This is as it should be; but the difficulty is, that they often plan too largely, calculating on finishing off only a small portion of the house *at present*, and to do off the rest at some future opportunity of more leisure and convenience. But these future opportunities of leisure and convenience rarely occur, and so much more capital is often expended in the inclosing of a large dwelling than had been anticipated, or is at all useful to the family, that it remains forever unfinished, and a cold, comfortless receptacle for them, when a snug, warm and delightful dwelling could be entirely finished, with every requisite comfort for a numerous family, at the cost of the unfinished shell! How painfully true is this fact in numberless instances!

This fatal error oftentimes extends itself to the outer buildings of the farm, alike prejudicial to all descriptions of stock kept upon it, and of most serious account in the year's results of its products. Fortunately, there is so little intricacy or science needed in the construction of farm buildings, that even the least skilful may erect comfortable and necessary shelters for all his domestic animals and materials abound so plentifully in our country, that they are every where to be found. It is better, even, in my estimation, for a farmer to sell a small portion of his land, to accommodate the remainder with proper buildings, if he cannot do it otherwise, for he is actually richer in the end to do so; as for the most of them, the produce on an equal number of those acres would be annually wasted for the want of them, besides all the discomfort, misery, and suffering caused by exposure to the inclemency of the seasons. This may be unpleasant argument to those who are intent upon nothing but increasing the extent of their farms, regardless of the comforts or profits of their stock. Yet such, were they to pause in their acquisitions, and by the erection of necessary buildings on their farms, secure more effectually its products, would in a short time accumulate much more rapidly than before. I name these facts with more emphasis, because I am well assured by my observations throughout the country, that the want of necessary and proper buildings is the greatest drawback our farmers experience in the profits of their labor.

Of what avail is it that I reap fifty bushels of wheat, or an hundred bushels of corn to the acre, and lose one third of it for want of shelter, or waste in feeding? Unless I can secure my crop, my profit in growing it is of small account. If I cut fifty tons of hay, and by exposure in stacks to the weather, only forty of it can be eaten by the cattle, and one quarter part of that even is trampled under foot, I had better have had only thirty tons of good hay in my barn, and even then my stock would have consumed five tons less by being warmly housed for the winter. This is a view of the case which I think must strike every thinking mind, and will apply itself to every kind of domestic animal on the farm. To my own mind it has been most strikingly presented by a year's experience, and I am of opinion that the difference in the consumption of food for the domestic stock of a farm, taking in all the losses incident to the forage itself by want of housing, &c., is at least *thirty* per cent., compared with the most economical method of expending it; and in some cases even *forty* or *fifty!* I am aware that this calculation will strike the reader with surprise, and by many it will not be believed; but to such I only say, try it, and he will become satisfied of its truth.

Management of a large tract of Land---Wintering Cattle.

In the spring of 1834, the management of a large tract of land coming under my charge, portions of which had for years been most miserably mangled by a horde of squatters, who had cut, haggled, and worked the

land after their own fashion, although abundantly productive by nature, I found it in a most miserable condition, requiring immediate care and attention. Numerous wretched log cabins were scattered over it with bark roofs; an occasional shed for cattle, with a parcel of old rails thrown over the top, and on them the remains of an old stack bottom, where their hay, stalks, or straw, had been stored, were all the buildings or conveniences to be found on the premises. Three or four of these little squads or settlements had been made on different parts of the territory, and each one comprised within its compass from one to two hundred acres of this partially cleared, girdled and dilapidated improvement. Having got rid of the squatters, and selected one of these settlements most conveniently located for immediate operations, and taken the best cabin, well situated and convenient for a dwelling, I put into it a good family, fit to manage the place, built an addition to it also of logs, put on a good shingled roof, and, with a hundred or two dollars expense, made a very comfortable affair of it. With sufficient help on the place, the fences were straightened and put into line, the old bouks, (*bocks*,) brush fences, logs, &c. &c., cleared up and tolerable crops got in. Having come into the place about the middle of April, it was too late in the season to make rapid advances, but in the course of the summer perhaps thirty acres of oats, five or six of corn, and as many of potatoes, were cultivated, and yielded a tolerable crop. A dozen acres of wheat were also sown in the fall, and perhaps seventy or eighty acres of land worked into tolerable shape for another season. Yet we had no barns nor the means of building any during that year; one wretched log stable, which stood near the house, was all that we had for shelter to any of our animals, and with that we shifted to get along. Our hay, of which we had some sixty or seventy tons cut from a distant clearing, our oats, corn, fodder, &c. &c., were all stacked out in the open air. Winter came upon us. With a few thousand feet of boards and the aid of crotches and poles, we made some sheds and mangers for our cattle, of which we had a large stock, composed of oxen and cows, and erected some racks in the yard to feed them in. By these means we got through the winter, after the fashion. Our cattle had enough to eat, and during the cold weather, looked tolerably well: but as the cold rain and snow-storms of March and April came on, they grew poor in spite of all we could do. Food enough to keep in high condition double their number, if well housed, was given them, but all to little purpose. The storms wet the fodder in the stacks, the cattle trampled it into the mud under their feet, and with all the care given them, which was a great deal, I am fully satisfied that at least twenty-five per cent. of the food given them was entirely lost! And yet this was better and more economical feeding than one half the stock of our country get on the average! It may be a bold and sweeping remark, but it is nevertheless a *true* one, and would every farmer make the experiment who thus practises, he would fully test its correctness. We had great labor to perform, and therefore submitted to the loss and inconvenience accruing to this mode of management. During the winter we cleared up more of this *slashed* ground, inclosed it, drew off its wood and timber, and last spring had perhaps two hundred acres of pasture, mowing and plough land ready for use.

Erection of the Barn

We were now ready to build a barn, and after the spring crops had been put in, proceeded to erect one proper for the uses of the farm. It was soon built, covered and inclosed, and by haying and harvest time was ready for use. It was placed on a central and convenient spot for the farm, which is a large one, and although the barn is one hundred feet long, by fifty feet wide, and eighteen feet posts, with leantos for stables on each side of it, with a floor fourteen feet wide, lengthwise through the centre, more room will soon be required. It was a matter of much wonder and inquiry by my neighbors who saw the barn, of what possible use it could be, supposing it a most extravagant building, although, for the size, a very cheap one. Yet when we had cut and stored our hay, oats, and wheat, the barn was crammed full to the roof, on the floor and all. We housed every thing; all was put in, in perfect order and good condition. Ample room is there made to tie up every animal to be fed, and not a lock of hay or spoonful of grain need be lost. The manure is all saved, and in a convenient situation to be carried out, and a degree of economy, comfort and satisfaction experienced in expending the food to the stock, that amply compensates for all the extra expense. The hay and grain it contains is more than one hundred and fifty tons, enabling us to feed out every bundle of straw and coarse fodder, which is in most cases altogether lost, or only used for a manure. A plan of this barn will be given in our next.

(Concluded in our next.)

Keeping Stock—a Dialogue.

MR. HOLMES:—Being present when the following *Dialogue* took place, betweeen two farmers, and as winter is approaching, I think it may be useful to publish it, for the informaiton of those who keep stock next winter,

A. A yoke of oxen which girt six feet six inches, cannot be kept in good flesh in winter, on less than fifty pounds of good English hay per day, or fifteen hundred a month, without labor, by giving as much as they will eat—which is the only way to keep up their flesh.

B. There is no sort of need of their consuming such a quantity, or so much expense, per day—in the first place they will keep their flesh full as well by giving them something less than they will eat, if given to them; thus kept, their appetites will always be sharp and good, and they will better relish their food, and of course it will nourish them as much more; there will be no waste, in the next place. Much may be saved in the expense, by mixing straw, or poor hay, with the good; if thoroughly mixed, they cannot avoid eating the less expensive hay. As all animals (man not excepted) are fond of a change of *Diet*, much may be saved by Browse and a few roots. Thus I can keep a yoke of oxen for half the expense you name.

A. But it must take some time and trouble to mix the hay, straw, &c., in the manner you propose, and I have been in the habit of feeding my cattle without this trouble, and giving them what they will eat.

B. So I apprehended, and I was not clear but that you was so sparing of your trouble, that you neither carded your oxen, or see that they drank when they needed water, or that they were littered properly, and of course laid happily. Much depends, my friend, on these *little things*, if you desire to save hay, which we both agree, is of no small consequence this year, or indeed any year.

A. I will try your mode of keeping cattle, and if it succeeds I shall be much obliged, for my purse will not be drained as I expected, in keeping my stock through the approaching foddering time.

B. I am satisfied that good wheat straw, and a small quantity of roots every day will keep up their flesh, without any hay in cold winter weather, this has been sufficiently tried. By this time I hope you are satisfied that stock may be kept much cheaper than you had supposed, if you are, you will not sacrifice them this fall.

A. I certainly shall not, until I have tried your mode of wintering stock—if it succeeds, it must be of great consequence to farmers, even in seasons when hay is not very dear.

B. Why should we not learn something, by being deprived by Providence of the usual quantity of forage?—*Maine Farmer.*

A Mr. Walker, of Doncaster, stacked, in ten hours, twenty tons of hay.

When is the best time to Plough?

The above question is one of no small importance to the farmer. Most of our land is ploughed in the spring—a part is ploughed in the summer, and a part is ploughed in the fall. Although we admit that farmers should embrace the opportunity to plough when their leisure or time will allow, yet every one will say that in breaking up a sward land it makes some difference when it should be done; whether in the summer or autumn or spring. The reasons for this difference depend upon the action of the decaying sod on the crops. Some assert that the sod, if ploughed in the summer, is decomposed by the time that the summer crop is commencing, and the crop has the benefit of it, whereas, if ploughed late in the fall or in the spring, the sod does not become wholly decomposed, and the crop cannot receive the whole benefit of it. In conversation with an observing and very intelligent farmer, the other day,—he observed that his crops which were put upon a summer fallow, invariably looked well in the first part of the season, but at the latter part, when maturing the seed, they fall short of those which were put upon a spring fallow. Now there may be something in this, and perhaps the following may be the reason of it. It has been found that for a green succulent growth, or for the production of leaves, straw, &c. manure that is undergoing fermentation, is best, while for the production of seed or fruit, manure that has been fermented is the best. Now may not the summer ploughed, become fermented, or decomposed, and its energy finished, or done too early—while the latter is delayed till the seed is matured? We merely make these suggestions with the hope of eliciting information from those who know more about the business.—*Maine Farmer.*

Prospects of Agriculture in the United States.

That an almost total revolution in the agriculture of the United States will ere long have been effected, we think can admit of no reasonable doubt. It therefore behooves all those, and they constitute the great mass of our population, who depend for their subsistence on the most ancient, most useful, and most honorable of all occupations, to be industrious in preparing themselves for the approaching change, by acquiring all that information which is necessary to enable them to adapt their course to that new state of things by which they will shortly be surrounded, and to which they must accommodate themselves, if they wish to participate in that general prosperity which awaits the

intelligent, the enterprizing, and the industrious cultivators of the earth.

Amongst the causes which may reasonably and confidently be expected to produce the anticipated change in the agriculture of our country, the following are the most prominent, and are of themselves amply sufficient to produce it.

First—The spirit of agricultural improvement is aroused and is rapidly extending itself over the whole country. People are beginning to discover at last, that the occupier of exhausted land, badly cultivated, cannot successfully compete with the judicious cultivator of improved, rich, and well tilled land—because the latter, with less expense, can make two bushels of grain to his one, and because this great disparity must every year increase in proportion to the progressive exhaustion of the first and improvement of the latter.

Secondly—The rapid extension of internal improvements, such as rail roads and canals, are fast placing the agriculturists of the whole nation in a situation to compete with each other on nearly equal terms as respects the expense of transportation to market in the sale of all the products of the country: the consequence must be, that every section will be compelled to confine itself to the cultivation of such articles only, as are best adapted to its soil and climate.

Thirdly—The introduction of new articles of culture, and especially of Silk, and Beet Sugar, the speedy success of both which, to an immense extent, there is every reason to expect, will draw off a large portion of labor from the cultivation of the articles now reared—and fourthly, the great increase of manufactures, the necessary consequence of the increased facilities of transportation, and of the production of the raw material, by increasing to an incalculable extent, the demand for many articles now scarcely cultivated for sale, except in the neighborhood of large towns, will cause much of the labor now devoted to other articles to be employed in their production. The great body of farmers, may, therefore, calculate with certainty, that the period is not very remote, when they will be compelled to give to their industry a very different direction from that which habit and existing circumstances have heretofore prescribed to it. How important then must it be to every farmer to acquire that agricultural knowledge, without which he must be wholly unprepared for those changes in the state of his profession, which are rapidly approaching and which he cannot possibly avert. Without the acquisition of this knowledge, the farmers and planters of the old school, will soon find themselves in most uncomfortable situations, from which nothing short of its acquisition can relieve them. This will require time and practice; the interval employed in the acquisition of this knowledge, if now neglected, must be most adverse to their interests, and in many cases will prove ruinous.—We exhort them therefore to spare no pains to keep pace with all the agricultural improvements of the age, that, when compelled to abandon their present practices, they may be prepared to substitute more eligible ones in their stead.

Tennessee Farmer.

New Method of stacking Oats.

In passing a Farm belonging to Capt. John E. Baker, and seeing a very large and singularly formed Oat Stack, I was led to enquire of him his motive for saving his Oats in this way, and his method of putting them up. He informed me, that last year his Oats were in danger of being lost from the frequent showers which fell after they were cut, and that, from necessity, he fell on the following plan to save them: he took forks, and set them in a row, after the method of making a Fodder-house; then setting rails on poles with proper slant against the ridge-pole, (say six or ten inches apart,) he commenced building his Oats on the rails, and topped the stack in a way to secure it from the weather. Capt. Baker is a tolerably extensive farmer, and is very methodical in his arrangements—scrupulously economical in saving what he has made, and punctual in his transactions. Should any person feel inclined to adopt this method of saving their Oats, there is no doubt but they will be amply repaid for their labor. The three following considerations I would deem a sufficient inducement to try the experiment. 1st, The air having a free passage through the centre, the oats (if necessity require) may be put up (in a measure) green or wet, and become thoroughly cured and dried. 2d, A secure and comfortable place may be made of this for ewes and lambs, or young calves, in cold and stormy weather. And 3dly, As rats are extremely destructive on this grain when housed in the barn, or even when stacked in the ordinary way, this method furnishes almost a perfect defence against their depredations, as the buts and tops lie alternately on each other in each layer, and having only about two or three layers on each side of the stack, it is so thin they have little or no chance for committing them. I feel satisfied that this method is a good one, and would recommend a trial of it, by all who are extensively engaged in raising oats. I would further suggest, that if the plan be a good one on a large scale, there is no doubt but that it would be good on a less extensive experiment. I am not aware of having before seen or heard of this method

for saving oats, and the plan being a new one to me, I hope you will accept of this as an apology for troubling you with this long letter.—*Ib.*

Cider.

[Isaac Mulford, of Cumberland county, in a letter to the publisher of the Cabinet, says: "This, with us, is a season of an uncommon quantity of good fruit, especially apples." He requests us to communicate to the public the best method of preserving apples through the winter, and also of *refining cider.* The following articles, the first a receipt furnished by a practical farmer, the second, extracted from one of our city journals, will afford some information on the subject.]

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Receipt for Refining Cider.

BY ANDREW C. RIDGEWAY.

One pound of Russia Isinglass to four hogsheads of cider, dissolved in the following manner. Put the isinglass into a barrel, and add to it one gallon of old hard cider; stir it frequently during the day; the next day add more cider and stir it as before, and so continue until the isinglass is dissolved, and the mixture becomes about as thick as West India molasses. Then strain it through a fine hair sieve, and it is fit for use. The cider should be made of sound apples, put into clean casks, and stand until it ferments, and the pomace rises on the top; then rack it off into other casks, and put in one half of the above mixture when the casks are about half full, and stir it well with a stick at the bung; then fill up the cask and let it stand from six to ten days with the bung out, when it is to be racked off again, (great care being taken to leave all the sediment behind,) and the remainder of the refining mixture is then to be added as before. After standing awhile it is fit for bottling. ☞ The greatest care is to be observed in the whole process.

The editor of the Saturday Courier furnishes the following in answer to a similar proposition from a correspondent. He says, "our city refiners are generally very tenacious of any particular advantage they may possess in the way of improving and preserving liquors, and place so high an estimate on the value of their particular 'art and mystery,' that the first cider monger, to whom we made application, actually had the modesty to ask us five hundred dollars for such information as we asked for. [It was the same generous individual, we presume, who asked us only two thousand dollars for the receipt!] Our friend Kerrison, however, whose bottling establishment at the Exchange has long been celebrated for cider of peculiar soundness and exquisite flavor, has in a spirit of liberality, for which our country friends will no doubt feel greatly indebted to him, furnished us with the following receipt, in reply to our correspondent.

In addition, we take the liberty of adding a few suggestions which may be of service. An experienced writer insists that the apples should always be picked by hand, and those that are unsound should be thrown out, as well as those that have lain so long on the ground as to acquire an *earthy* taste, which is otherwise invariably imputed to the cider. The bruised and inferior apples should be placed in a heap by themselves for making an inferior cider for vinegar. In pressing the pummice, hair-cloth should be used instead of straw, as the straw, when heated, gives a disagreeable taste to the cider, and in running from the press, the cider should pass through a hair sieve.

Kerrison's Receipt for Cider.

The following rules for preserving cider, will apply to good cider only, for you cannot preserve bad cider. Let it be made of good sound winter apples, in cool weather, in the month of November or December, and *let no water be mixed with it.* Put it into clean hogsheads, (whiskey hogsheads lately emptied are best,) and keep it in a place invariably cool. Fermentation carries off the strength of the cider; therefore prevent it from fermenting as much as possible. When it exhibits a violent degree of fermentation, put in a half gallon of fourth proof rectified apple whiskey; if this does not stop it, put in another half gallon; the same quantity of pure French brandy will answer where it can be had. As soon as the fermentation has subsided and the crude particles settled down, rack it off into a clean hogshead.—After this, the cider will undergo a partial fermentation; when it is observed to ferment, and after it has subsided, rack it off again as before. If the crude particles are allowed to remain in the hogshead, they will work up among the cider during every fermentation, and injure it. When it is being racked off, it should be allowed to run with force into a large tub, and pumped from the tub into the hogshead; this serves to break the cider, and is highly beneficial during the first and second racking. Every time it is racked, it must be bunged up tight, and the hogshead kept full; but during the fermentation, the bung should be left out. There are other methods of refining and preserving cider, which are shorter and more certain, but cannot be pursued by farmers with advantage. The above method will be found to answer all domestic purposes."

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Preserving Apples.

Mr. Editor—I herewith send thee my plan of keeping apples through the winter. Pick them off carefully, and lay them on a clean sward about two tier thick---as I had but few last season, I put them down in single file, covering them up with rag weed mowed with stubble, about the depth of six inches, and so continued on until they were covered about eighteen inches; then lay down some rails so as to prevent the litter from blowing away. Old hay or buckwheat straw will answer the same purpose. I have pursued this plan for four years past, and am confident that the Webster's can't "go ahead" of it.

H. Stokes.

Burlington county, N. J. 10th m'th, 1836.

[Apples may be preserved in various ways. It seems not to be generally known, however, that they may be kept the whole year round by being immersed in corn, which receives no injury from their contact. In Portugal it is customary to have a small ledge in almost every apartment, immediately under the cornice, barely wide enough to hold an apple, with the interstices filled up with grain---in this way the ceilings are fringed with fruit. An excellent method is pursued in some of the river counties of New-York. A correspondent of the New-York Farmer says there is no difficulty in preserving winter apples through the summer by my method, which is to take a flour barrel, cover the bottom with ground plaster or gypsum, select the best and fairest fruit and place them in the bottom of the barrel, so as not to touch each other, and cover them with plaster, and so proceed until the barrel is filled, then head it up and place it in a dry and proper situation. The barrels and plaster should be taken to the orchard, and the apples laid down as taken from the tree. The apple is not only preserved in a perfect state, but the flavor remains uninjured; the plaster absorbing the moisture from the apples and excluding the atmosphere. By the farmer no risk is run, as the plaster can be used upon his land. The method adopted by Mr. Nathan Warner, of New-Hampshire, is very simple, and one that may be easily practised. The apples are to be laid down in dry flax seed chaff, where they remain until the month of June following, when they are to be overhauled, those that are unsound thrown aside, the chaff spread out and dried, and the sound apples packed down again along with the chaff as at first. Managed in this way, Mr. Warner has had plenty of fresh apples through the whole of the past season, and until the ripening of the same fruit this autumn. Noah Webster, Esq. maintains that the usual practice of many persons of picking apples in October and spreading them on the floor of an upper room for the purpose of rendering them more durable by drying, is a grand mistake. He says apples, after remaining on the trees as long as safety from the frost will admit, should be taken directly from the trees to close casks, and kept dry and cool as possible. If suffered to lie on a floor for weeks, they wither and lose their flavor, without acquiring any additional durability. The best mode of preserving apples for spring use, I have found to be, the putting them in dry sand as soon as picked. Fot this purpose, I dry sand in the heat of summer, and late in October put down the apples in layers, with a covering of sand upon each layer. The singular advantage of this mode of treatment are these:—1st. The sand keeps the apples from the air, which is essential to their preservation. 2d. The sand checks the evaporation or perspiration of the apples, thus preserving in them their full flavor—at the same time, any moisture yielded by the apples, (and some there will be,) is absorbed by the sand; so that the apples are kept dry, and all mustiness is prevented. My pippins in May and June, are as fresh as when first picked; even the ends of the stem look as if just separated from the twig.]

Apples for Stock.

We have from time to time published accounts of experiments in fattening pork with apples, which has been done with success and profit. The use of apples as food during winter for stock, has been abundantly successful during the past winter.

Several of our acquaintance have used them for this purpose, and consider them a valuable acquisition to their stores of fodder. Mr. J. Bacon, of this town, informs us that he has fed them out daily to his sheep, and has seldom had a flock of sheep do better during a winter. Several other farmers, who have had two or three hundred bushels, have used them with their hay with good effect. Here then is another reason why farmers should not only preserve their orchards, which they now have, with care, but also set out more, and such kinds as will keep well during the winter. An orchard may be considered as a fixture. When the trees once arrive to the bearing age, they require but very little care to keep them in a thrify condition. They may be considered as a permanent crop, always planted out, and always ready for the summer.—*Maine Farmer.*

It would be as unjust and inhuman to hate a man for *honest* errors of opinion in religion, politics. &c. as it would be to hate another because he is infected with some constitutional disease.

A Clover Box.

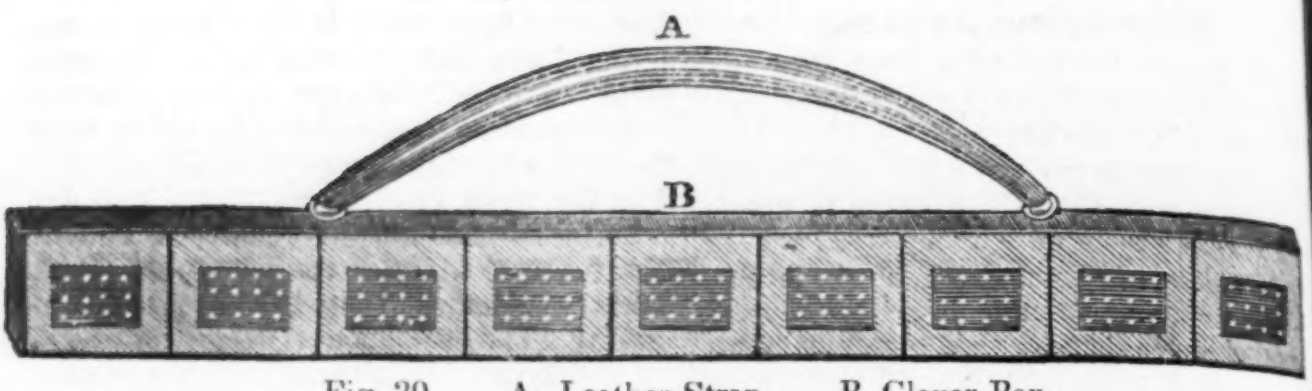

Fig. 30. A. Leather Strap. B. Clover Box.

A gentleman who is much attached to agriculture, on a recent visit to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, saw there a box, which is in general use for sowing clover seed; by which great economy is produced, and the seed is placed on the ground with entire certainty and equality.

Fifteen acres were sown with one bushel of seed, and the clover was well set, and the plants in sufficient numbers—not a part of the field was passed over without its having been well seeded.

The Box is exceedingly simple in its construction, and could be made at a very small expense. A drawing of it is given above.

It is ten feet, or eight feet in length, and about four inches in breadth, divided into partitions of six inches long. In the bottom of each partition is an opening of about three inches square in which is inserted a piece of tin, or parchment, or stiff paper, perforated with a number of holes of a sufficient size for the clover seed to pass through. In each partition the seed is placed. To the box is fixed a strap, which is passed over the shoulders of the sower, and carrying the box before him, he walks over the field, agitating the box by his hand if it requires more movement than it receives from his walk. In this manner the seed is equally scattered over all the ground.

If thought necessary, a piece of wood may be hooked on the bottom of the box, to prevent the seed dropping out before the sowing commences. The box may be made of light cedar, and cut to weigh six or eight pounds without the seed.

October 24, 1836.

Horticulture and Botany.

See various trees their various fruits produce,
Some for delightful taste, and some for use;
See, sprouting plants enrich the plain and wood,
For physic some, and some design'd for food;
See, fragrant flowers, with different colors dy'd
On smiling meads unfold their gaudy pride.
Blackmore.

On the Cultivation of Flowers.

[The following remarks on this interesting subject are both just and beautiful. We copy from an Eastern print.]

In former times if Flora was named as a nymph of lovely mien, it was Ceres alone who received all the honors from the cultivation of the soil. A century ago when Lord Kaimes and others were writing upon ornamental gardening, but little attention had been paid to the subject in America. A few royal governors and opulent merchants began about that time to cultivate ornamental gardening; but most of these men knew nothing of plants or of flowers, but sustained the expense of a garden as a mark of distinction. The greater part of these cultivators of flowers in their own gardens, could have given you no more technical, botanical information than they could of heraldry, if you enquired of them an explanation of their armorial bearings, blazoned on the pannels of their coaches. The *Fess Point* would have been to them an enigma, and nothing but the name of a flower was sought for. Not that these were ignorant men; far from it; they were business men, politicians and scholars; but it was not the taste of the times to attend to such things. In fact, with the great mass of the people, perhaps, it would have been a mark of effeminancy to have shown a fondness for flowers. But in this the taste has changed, and the gravest statesman and profoundest philosopher may cultivate, admire and minutely describe a flower without losing any particle of his greatness with the people.—When the Vassals, the Brattles, the Tracys, lavished wealth in gardening, it was not so. The doings of royal governors; the rights of man; the conjectures upon the course the legislature would pursue the next session? who would be Mandamus Councillors? whether the Walpoles would still hold their power? were the subjects of discussion. The beauties of nature were but little thought of at that time; now and then some one would be singular, and take some pains to change, by cultivation, a single pink to a double one,

but then his neighbors, winking to each other, said, "he is more nice than wise."—Such refined and delicate pursuits as the study of botany were not proper for those who had frontiers to defend, institutions to build up and all the elements of society to fashion, in forming a new nation. At least they thought so. The revolutionary war following this labor; and Ceres, Pomona, and Flora, were all more or less neglected; ploughshares and pruning-hooks were beaten into swords and spears. The soldier, however tasteful, on the track of blood, could not stop to admire a wheat-field, nor to examine the beauties of the flowers in his path-way. Soon as the country began to recover from the evils of the revolution, a taste for agriculture and gardening became fashionable, in some measure. WASHINGTON set the example. He was a practical farmer, and an excellent gardener. He brought trees, shrubs and flowers from every clime, and spent every hour he could spare from indispensable business, to enriching his collections for the field and the green house. This example was followed in every State in the Union; in the city of Philadelphia with great success. Every garden in that city for eight years, was under his eye. Massachusetts was not behind any other state in her attention to horticulture as well as agriculture.

The means of indulging in a luxury of this nature were soon acquired after the peace of 1783; and the nucleus of all the vast improvements of this day was then established. The pleasure to be derived in cultivating flowers can now be appreciated by most persons, as their biography and science have become household ornaments; and the utility of the pursuit is a little more remote, but easily traced when our attention is turned to it. The cotton plant, now the great staple article of the world, as to growth and manufacture, was, as oriental tales inform us—and they are always the truth, or the shadow of it—once the garden plant of some Asiatic beauty, who, to the delights of vision, as the pods of the plant opened with snow-blown loveliness, with a natural curiosity and taste, added that of touch. The soft and fibrous mass, as her dainty fingers played upon it, seemed to attenuate under the pressure—and at that moment the thought of making a thread was conceived, and the progress from the distaff to the loom, and from that to ornamental dress, was rapid and astonishing. Taste and fancy have more to do with improvements and science, than we imagine. The culture and the manufacture of cotton have now become the support of more than ten millions of the human race in Europe and America, and of more than fifty millions in Asia and Africa.

Agriculture has received many advantages from accident. Celery, now a common dessert of every table, it is said, came into the garden plants from the following circumstance:—An Italian nobleman, in a paroxysm of passion, slew his only brother; the church condemned him for three years to a monastery, to prayer and penitence;—his food to be of the weeds which grew within the enclosures about his prison; celery, bleached in the shade of the cloister, then became a favorite food; and when released from his confinement, he transplanted the weed, then but little better than a night shade to his garden—it was set in trenches to bleach it, and to make it crisp and tender for his palate. He was a leader in fashionable life, and his example was imitated throughout Europe; and celery became at first a garnishment for the table, then a luxury, and now a necessary for every palate.

The dyes of all the looms of ancient and modern times were borrowed from flowers. The philosophers of the East saw that to please the world they must follow nature. "Mark the lily how it grows—Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these," says an inspired writer. The poets of a later age, those great interpreters of nature, have followed up the thought, and expanded it with philosophical ingenuity. This thought is scattered through every page of their works, for they have adorned every column of their imperishable temples with these wreaths of nature.

"Who can paint
Like nature? Can imagination boast,
Amid its gay creation, hues like these?
Or can it mix them with that matchless skill,
And lose them in each other, as appears
In every bud that blows?

Among a prosperous people, there is always a surplus measure of time, which may be used to their advantage if properly improved; and how can it be better filled up than in such sweet and innocent pursuits?

A love of distinction is an inate passion of our souls; the glories of war and of eloquence are fast declining, and yet the love of distinction must be supplied from other sources: Nature is ready, when properly interrogated, by her responsers, to fill up the void created by this decline. That which was once said in bitter but playful sarcasm, will soon be acknowledged as a settled truth:—"That he who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, is preferable to all the warriors and statesmen put together;" and in modern times we shall find these occupations the more imperishable monuments of fame. The low-

ells, the Kindricks, the Cushings, the Windships, the Wilders, the Walkers, the Haggerties, and others, that I have forgotten, have found that their labors have been "like words fitly spoken"—the glory of wisdom —"flowers of gold in pictures of silver."

The cultivation of flowers at the present day seems not merely confined to gratify a laudable ambition; but to extend itself far, very far beyond it. The florists have gone back to ancient days, as every one must, who intends to follow nature in matters of taste. The greatest efforts of the present generation of florists have been the use of flowers in depriving the grave of its horrors; I allude to the connexion of a garden with a cemetry, as at Mount Auburn. The dark and silent chambers of the dead have always been distressing to the living; they say, with Othello—

'Here is my journey's end, here is my birth,
And every sea-mark of my utmost sail."

The horticulturist of Mount Auburn leaves his flowers with a different feeling than that experienced by our great ancestors when driven from Eden,

"O flowers,
That never will in other climate grow,
My early visitation, and my last
At ev'n, which I bred up with tender hand
From the first opening bud, and gave ye names,
Who shall now rear ye to the sun, or rank
Your tribes, and water from th'ambrosial fount?"

The florist now knows that from the garden he loved, that those very flowers which he reared to the sun, are to be planted around his grave; to shed their perfume and scatter their leaves on every summer breeze.

This "lovely conceit," like Ophelia's pure imagination, "has turned every thing to prettiness;"—and the traveler, as he wanders through the labyrinth of flowers, which seem to cover the hearse and the pall, and to hide the spade and the mattocks, whispers to himself "can this be death?"—if it be.

"Death is the privilege of human nature;
And life without it were not worth the taking!"

Go on, ye florists; and while you extend in innocent rivalry in making Earth's bosom each year more lovely than the last, be assured that you will secure the affection and gratitude of all; and that even he who has no parterre of flowers to boast of, no garden from which to gather golden fruits, will select those which the Muses have scattered over the fields of knowledge and taste, and bind them on your brows.

PHILO FLORIST.

A PLANT POSSESSING THE PROPERTIES OF SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.—A very interesting paper was recently read by Mornay, before the London Linnean Society, dereribing a shrub which grows on the rivers of Brazil, and which is called the Euphorbia Phosphorescens. Where this Euphorbia forms large entangled impenetrable masses, covering, perhaps, a quarter of an acre of ground, and growing some twenty feet high, it will take fire spontaneously, emitting, for some time, a vast column of dense black smoke, and at last, bursting out in flames. Whenever the author had an opportunity of observing the combustion of the juice of this plant, on its coming into contact with atmospheric air, the temperature was a very little raised; the combustion (with flame) went on a low temperature, until stopped by the formation of a crust, which quickly takes place. The temperature always appeared to be too low to spread into a confiagration.

RURAL & DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

To cure Bacon.—To half a bushel of small hominy salt, pounded, and one bushel of blown salt, put two pounds of salt petre and three quarts of molasses—mix all well together, and rub your hams and shoulders thoroughly with it, and put a thin layer on each; then pack the hams in the powdering tubs, with the skins downards and as compact as possible; first sprinkling the bottom of the tub with unmixed blown salt. When the tub is half full of hams, put in the shoulders until three quarters full, then fill up with the middlings, jowls and heads, giving a thin layer of unmixed blown salt between every layer of meat. After your meat has remained, (if small, four weeks, if middling size five weeks,) take it out and hang it up to smoke, with the hocks downwards. When well smoked, take it down and rub it thoroughly with hickory ashes, and pack it in dry hogsheads, with the hocks down: once or twice during the summer examine, rub it again with hickery ashes, and towards the fall it may be hung up, and it will then keep for many years.

The method of making Transparent Soap.—Tallow is the basis of all soaps for the toilette, known under the name of Windsor, because olive oil forms a paste too difficult to melt, and having an oder too powerful for mixing with perfumes. Tallow-soap, dissolved with heat in alcohol, returns to its solid state on cooling. It is this fact which has led to the discovery of transparent soap. When well prepared, this soap should have the appearance of fine white sugar candy. It may also be colored, and vegetable colors

are for this purpose preferable to minerals. Any person can make the soap, by putting into a thin glass phial half a brick of Windsor soap cut small, filling the phial half full of alcohol, and placing it near the fire till the soap is dissolved. This mixture put to cool in a mould gives the transparent soap.

Cure for the Croup.—The Croup, one of the most dangerous and rapid of diseases, may be effectually checked by the external application to the throat of equal parts of Camphor, Spirits of Wine and Hartshorn, well mixed together.—*Hunterdon Gazette.*

Potatoe Beer.—The Germans will now manufacture their favorite beverage in greater abundance and at a cheaper rate than ever. M. Balling, Professor of Chemistry, at Prague, has succeeded in making an excellent Beer from potatoes. It is the color of wine, is very strong, and very agreeable to the taste.

Method of curing bad Tub Butter.—A quantity of tub butter was brought to market in the West Indies, which, on opening, was found to be very bad, and almost stinking. A native of Pennsylvania undertook to cure it, which he did in the following manner: He started the tubs of butter in a large quantity of hot water, which soon melted the butter; he then skimmed it off as clean as possible, and worked it over again in a churn, and with the addition of salt and fine sugar, the butter was made sweet and good.

Recipe for the cure of Bots in a Horse.

When a horse has bots, it may often be known by his biting his sides; when he has many, they often throw him into great pain, and he lays down, rolls, and if not cured soon, dies. When it is believed that a horse has the bots, by the above symptoms, give a pint of sweetened milk; which the bots are fond of, and they will let go their hold on the horse, and feast on the milk. Immediately give the horse a small quantity of oats or other provender, in which put two thirds of a common fig of tobacco pulverized. If he refuses the provender thus mixed, steep the same quantity of tobacco in a pint of boiling or warm water, until the strength is out, as we say, then put in enough cold water so that the whole will fill a common junk bottle, and turn it into the horse.—When it reaches the bots it kills them, as all will believe, who have ever spit tobacco juice on a worm, or similar insect. The horse in less than twenty hours will void all his bots; there is no mistake in this, though no patent has been obtained. The writer would not have it tried on an old poor horse in the fall or first of winter, for he would certainly recover to the damage of his owner. If one worth curing is affected with bots, and the symptoms are severe, never stop for the milk, but in with the tobacco,—this is the *kill all.*—*Maine Farmer.*

A discovery was accidently made by a chemist in Durham, England, a short time since, which is worth recording. He had been stung by a wasp in the hand, and while suffering extreme pain, had occasion in the course of his business, to put his hand into a jar of potash, when the pain instantly left him.—Surprised at this effect, he determined to try an experiment to prove the efficacy of the remedy, and accordingly on the following day, he caught a bee, which he irritated till it stung him. He applied a drop of the liquor potasse to the wound, and the pain he had previously felt was instantly removed.

Harvest Hymn.

Written for a late Agricultural Exhibition.

BY MRS. LYDIA H. SIGOURNEY.

God of the year!—with songs of praise,
And hearts of love, we come to bless
Thy bounteous hand, for thou hast shed
Thy manna o'er our wilderness;—
In early spring-time thou didst fling
O'er earth its robe of blossoming—
And its sweet treasures day by day,
Rose quick'ning in thy blessed ray.

And now they whiten hill and vale,
And hang from every vine and tree,
Whose pensile branches bending low
Seem bowed in thankfulness to Thee,—
The earth with all its purple isles,
Is answering to thy genial smiles,
And gales of perfume breathe along
And lift to Thee their voiceless song.

God of the seasons! Thou hast blest
The land with sunlight and with showers,
And plenty o'er its bosom smiles
To crown the sweet autumnal hours;
Praise, praise to Thee! Our hearts expand
To view these blessings of thy hand,
And on the incense—breath of love,
Go off to their bright home above.

To CLEAR IRON FROM RUST.—Pound some glass to a fine powder, and having nailed some strong linen or woollen cloth upon a

the jet is continually diminishing. The moving power is renewed once in three months. This application of the expansive force of air, if achieved, is among the most remarkable improvements of the age.

Cultivation of Wheat.

* * * * I will give you my opinion on raising wheat which I have gathered from my own experience, and from a close observation of my neighbors. Every farmer ought to select a piece of land in the spring of the year for a summer fallow, of a suitable soil, and a field that wants improving, and through the course of the summer remove all the stones, if it should be stony land, and convert them into a good substantial wall around the field, and if necessary drain it sufficiently with under ground drains, which will take the smaller stones that are not useful for fencing, and give it as many ploughings as you think is necessary, and if the field should be infested with Canada thistles it ought to be ploughed so often as to prevent them from making their appearance above ground that season; for I know of no way to destroy them so effectually as this. But they ought not to have a breathing time at all through the course of the summer. After your fallow is turned over for the first time, it will require but one or two extra ploughings, and the next year after harvest, you will find little or nothing of that noxious weed. But if any should be left they will be feeble and sickly plants. After your land is prepared in this way, draw out your manure about the first of September. The manure that is intended for the summer fallow ought to be thrown in heaps or ridges in the spring of the year in the barn yard, unless it be of the depth of from one to two feet in the yard. To prevent it from leaching in wet weather, prepare it by fermentation through the summer, which will also destroy all the foul seeds that may have collected in the winter, as the smaller grains require manure of this kind, that is sufficiently fermented and decomposed. As our success in farming depends much on the manner and quantity of manuring our land, each farmer should so construct his barn yard as to keep the mannre in a small compass, and to water his stock in the yard or have them returned to it immediately after watering, to prevent them from wasting manure in the high way, and other places. After the proper time for sowing arrives, which is about the middle of September, then spread your manure very even over the ground and give it a ploughing immediately after spreading, by laying it in lands for sowing. Then prepare your wheat, giving it a thorough liming with quick lime, either by wetting the wheat first and mixing as much lime with it as will adhere to it, or by letting the wheat stand in strong lime water over night before sowing. This process is indispensably necessary to destroy the eggs of the Hessian fly, and to prevent it from being smutty, and also cause it to come up stronger. The quantity of seed wheat ought not to be less than two bushels to the acre. Some number of years ago, our wheat crops failed altogether and it was supposed that our land would no more produce wheat; but by taking a different method of preparing our land, such as I have stated, we can raise as good crops of wheat as when our land was new; for I believe the whole secret in raising wheat consists in preparing the ground in a proper manner.—And we can raise good crops of wheat on stubble ground, such as barley stubble, peas, or oats, and even wheat stubble will produce good crops for some number of years if kept in a high state of cultivation; although I approve of rotation in crops. By a farmer improving one piece of land to a degree of perfection, both as it respects the soil and fences he will soon find his farm in good order; and there is but little danger of your crops being winter killed, if they are put in as they ought to be, and the improvement on the land cannot be lost.

Shoeing Horses in Winter.—Canada, where the winter is never of less duration than five months, they shoe their horses in the following manner, which serves for the whole winter:—The smith fixes a small piece of steel on the fore part of each shoe, not tempered too hard, which turns up about 1-3 of an inch, in the shape of a horse's lancet; the same to the hind part of the shoe, turned up a little higher than the fore part, tempered in the same manner. In going up a hill, the fore part gives a purchase that assists the horse, and in going down prevents him sliding forwards.

New and Cheap Paint.—*More impervious to the weather than common paint.*—Take of unslacked lime a quantity sufficient to make two gallons of white wash when slacked—mix it with a due quantity of water—add to it 2½ lbs. of brown sugar, and about 3 oz. of salt. The exact proportion of each will be best ascertained by experiment. This, when applied as a paint, becomes perfectly hard and glossy—by mixing either ivory black or lamp black with the ingredients, a beautiful lead color may be had, or a yellow by mixing simple ingredients—this paint is now almost altogether used at the south for houses, fences, &c.

New Cement.—The French in Algiers have discovered a new plaster or cement, made of 2 parts ashes, 3 of clay, and 1 of sand—which being stirred and mixed with oil will resist all weathers better than marble.